



# • INFO memo - June 4, 2004

City of Broken Arrow  
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## **City Launches Campaign Against Mosquitoes**

Broken Arrow's mosquito control program has been underway for the past few weeks, but Public Works Director Dave Wooden reminds residents that they can help in the battle and reduce the risks of West Nile Virus in the community by following a few simple rules around their homes and yards.

Mosquitoes have always been a nuisance, but since West Nile Virus entered the picture they are much more than a nuisance. The virus is carried by birds, then transferred to mosquitoes which feed on those birds. When the mosquitoes bite humans, horses and other animals, they can become infected with the disease – which can be fatal.

A key, therefore, can be preventing the maturation process of the mosquitoes. The females, who are the biters, lay their eggs in standing water. The larvae hatch and evolve into the adult insects to keep the cycle going. That standing water can be in an area as small as a can or flower pot or as large as a stagnant pond without flowing water.

Wooden emphasizes that the City has a spraying unit that covers various areas of the community each night. Locales which have been problems in the past get quick and frequent attention. If residents notice an increase in the mosquito population in their neighborhood, they should contact Action Center at 258-3587 and provide the needed information.

Dead birds can be an indication that the virus is in a given area. Those birds will usually be larger ones, such as blue jays, crows, cardinals, hawks, owls, etc. If you find one of those dead birds, do not call the City. There is a special Dead Bird Hotline provided by the Tulsa Health Department (595-4344). Calling that number will enable you to get information on how to get the bird in for testing.

Positive test results will help direct local officials to the areas which need extra prevention treatments for mosquitoes.

The City of Broken Arrow has a direct link from its web site home page ([www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov)) to information on West Nile, mosquito control and several local, state and national agencies which provide even more information.

Last year there were 79 persons in Oklahoma diagnosed with West Nile, but no deaths. The year before there were 21 reported cases and two deaths.

## **What to do with All Those Tree Limbs...**

While there was very little damage in Broken Arrow to homes and other buildings during the June 2 thunderstorm and its accompanying winds, there were many, many trees damaged.

In Broken Arrow, those tree limbs and storm debris can be picked up at your curb by sanitation and street division workers. There is no charge for storm debris put out at your curb within a week of the storm. If the only damage was to smaller limbs or branches, simply cut them into 4-foot or smaller sections and take them to your curb. Customers of the City's utilities department will have pickup by the Sanitation crews on their next regular pickup.

If the trees and branches are enough to fill a pickup truck or more, call Operations of Public Works (259-8630) and ask for a special collection. A Street Division team will make the pickup.

## **Swim Lessons Begin Monday**

The City's swimming pools at Central Park and Country Aire Park opened over the Memorial Day weekend, and this coming Monday (June 7) the first of the two-week Learn to Swim sessions will begin at the old pool in Central Park.

Krystal Ridenour, Director of Registration for the program, reports that 701 children were signed up for the lessons, which will continue through the end of July.

While the first classes are starting next week, enrollment will continue through the summer, as long as openings are available. Cost of the classes is \$40. They consist of four 40-minute sessions each week for two weeks. Classes for infants and the younger children are 30 minutes long. New classes will begin June 21, July 5 and July 19.

There are classes for all levels of swimmers, with instruction by Red Cross trained personnel. To register, go to the office at the Community Center in Central Park (1500 S. Main).

## **Concerts in the Park Continue**

The weather cooperated on the first of five Tuesdays in the Park concerts last week as Gospel music brought out a large crowd. The concerts, a cooperative effort between the City Parks & Recreation Department and the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council, will continue this Tuesday, June 8, in Central Park with a theme of jazz music.

These concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the area just south of the tennis courts and west of the Family Aquatic Center. There is no cost of admission. Some soft drinks and food will be available through vendors. Spectators may bring their own chairs, blankets, etc., but no alcoholic beverages are permitted.

In addition to those concerts June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, there will be a new event at Central Park this year: the Heritage Bluegrass Festival on June 19.

Central Park is located at 1500 S. Main in Broken Arrow and has undergone significant renovation during the past several months, including new, wider bridges, landscaping and water drainage. If weather becomes threatening, the concerts will be moved to the PAC at North Intermediate High School.

On June 8 the theme will Jazz Night, with Chuck Cissel and Earl Clark in the spotlight.

The Starlight Band comes to the mobile Park stage (Showmobile) on June 15, and the following Tuesday will feature the Smith Brothers and their renditions of rock and roll from the 60s and 70s.

The final Tuesday in June will highlight Bluegrass music.

The Heritage Bluegrass Festival will run from 12 noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, and is also free and open to the public. It's presented by the Arts & Humanities Council, Harmony House Guitars and the BA Parks Department.

Included among the performers will be Spring Street, Cedar Hill, Nicole Brand & Friends, Goldrush Bluegrass Co., Heartland Express, IIIrd Generation and Arbuckles. Sound is provided by Randy Keisler.

## **City Employees Taking Part in Relay for Life**

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life events are sometimes fun, sometimes entertaining, sometimes emotional...but always beneficial to the fight against the disease which has impacted the lives of almost every American in one way or another.

Friday night (June 4) when Broken Arrow holds its Relay for Life at the South Intermediate Stadium, there will be a team of 29 from the City, along with some other City employees on other teams.

The BA City Council earlier this spring proclaimed this "American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Broken Arrow Day." Among other things, the proclamation stated: "...the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Broken Arrow is a unique and effective means of enhancing community goodwill while raising funds for the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education, advocacy and service."

In the proclamation, Mayor Richard Carter also said the event "raises money to fight cancer, greatly increases community awareness of cancer, and stimulates a real sense of relationship and camaraderie among the participants."

Rory Beel of the BA Police Department, who captains the team of City workers (most of those in the Police Department), said there are 29 signed up. They'll be at South Intermediate starting at 6 p.m., when there will be a silent auction, through the night and into early Saturday morning.

Each team member pays to participate, and they also get pledges or funds from friends, family and co-workers. Corporate sponsors contribute heavily to the event. Anyone who is a cancer survivor is invited to come to the stadium for dinner (6:15 p.m.), the opening ceremonies (7 p.m.) and first lap of the 2004 Relay for Life.

## **Stone Mill Earns National Honor**

The Stone Mill Neighborhood Association recently earned an Honorable Mention award in the Neighborhoods USA conference in Florida.

Pat Conners, who attended the conference after being notified that the nomination had earned a spot in the finals (only 13 neighborhood associations), reports that most of the top winners were neighborhoods which had severe crime problems or were economically depressed.

Stone Mill is one of the few area neighborhoods to participate in the Red Cross Safe Neighbor Network. That won it a spot in the Social Revitalization category of the competition. Conners indicated the certificate would be presented to the City and placed in the trophy case of the lobby at City Hall.

## **BAPD Program Nominated for National Award**

The cooperative effort between the Broken Arrow Police Department and Broken Arrow Public Schools to promote highway safety has earned a nomination in the Governors Highway Safety Association competition.

Sgt. Ed Ferguson, head of the BAPD traffic safety unit, reported to Police Chief Todd Wuestewald that he had been asked to submit the nomination based on the Tiger TV shows that have been produced, urging students to drive safely and avoid drinking alcohol and doing drugs.

Wuestewald responded to Ferguson's news by saying, "Great!! Whether the award comes through or not, Ed, we are very proud of you and your BATSU officers for all you have undertaken in the effort to address highway safety in Broken Arrow. A seldom quoted statistic that speaks volumes to your efforts and success is the fact that vehicle collisions have dropped 12 percent of the last three years."

Wuestewald also reported that a routine monitoring visit by the State of Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs was made at the new Justice Center in mid-May. A letter from Compliance Monitor Dennis Luman explained that the visit was to "assess compliance with Oklahoma State Statute, Title 10, Section 7304-1.1 and the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act."

His letter went on to say that no deficiencies were noted during the visit. "You and your staff are to be commended for your conscientious and professional approach to managing juveniles."

## **Fire Department Honor Guard Honored**

Acting Fire Chief Greg Neely reports that the Broken Arrow Fire Department Honor Guard has been selected to perform at the opening ceremonies for a state conference coming up this summer. The Honor Guard has been chosen for several such appearances in the past few years.

Neely was also sent a letter of thanks from the Church of Saint Benedict for his department's participation in a school safety fair at All Saints Catholic School.

